

A Change Is Gonna Come by Sam Cooke

I was born by the river¹ in a little tent,
Oh, and just like the river, I've been running ever since.

It's been a long, a long time coming,
But I know a change gon' come,² oh yes it will.

It's been too hard living, but I'm afraid to die
'Cause I don't know what's up there beyond the sky.

It's been a long, a long time coming,
But I know a change gon' come, oh yes it will.

I go to the movie, and I go downtown.
Somebody keep³ telling me, "Don't hang around."⁴

It's been a long, a long time coming,
But I know a change gon' come, oh yes it will.

Then I go to my brother
And I say, "Brother, help me please."
But he winds up knockin' me
Back down on my knees.

There been times⁵ that I thought I couldn't last for long,
But now I think I'm able to carry on.

It's been a long, a long time coming,
But I know a change gon' come, oh yes it will.

¹ The songwriter was born in a small town next to the Mississippi River.

² *a change gon' come* = a change is going to come

³ *Somebody keep telling me* = Somebody keeps telling me (with an *s* at the end of *keep*)

⁴ This songwriter, who was African-American, wrote this song in 1963. In the Southern United States, segregation was legal at that time. African-Americans could not go to movie theaters and other places that were for whites only.

⁵ *There been times* = There have been times